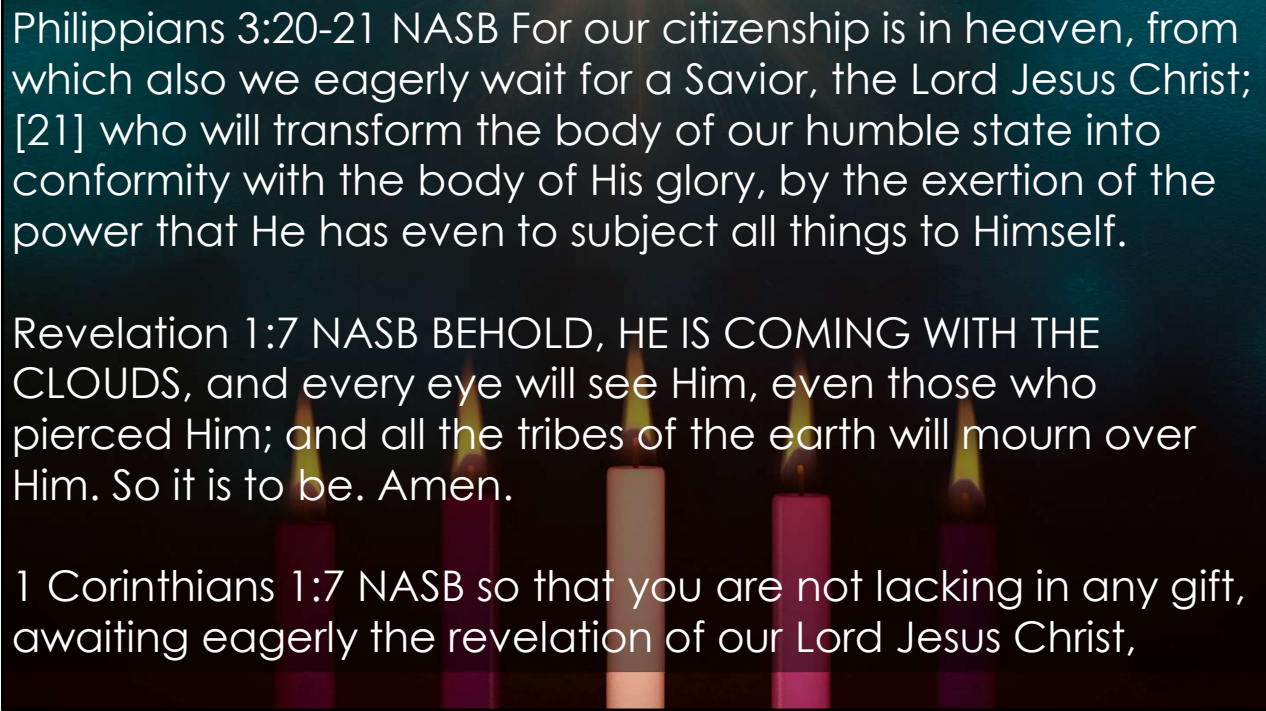


[“The Christ Candle” is traditionally lit on Christmas Day.

As you prepare, light all the candles EXCEPT for the white “Christ Candle”.]

King. In the American culture, we are agitated by the thought. After all, in the very fabric of our national identity lies the rebellion against an oppressive king. In the culture that Christ uses in at His first Advent, He establishes a different kind of kingdom. Jesus establishes a kingdom in which the King seeks not to be served but to be the chief servant. He modeled this to His followers when He washed their feet as He prepared them for His immanent betrayal, trials, beatings and crucifixion which was the ultimate display of the servant King.

Take a moment today from the bustle of opening gifts and give thanks to the kind of King who lays down His life for His people. Also consider during your time in this devotional study of how you can serve King Jesus who we celebrate today.



Philippians 3:20-21 NASB For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; [21] who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Revelation 1:7 NASB BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

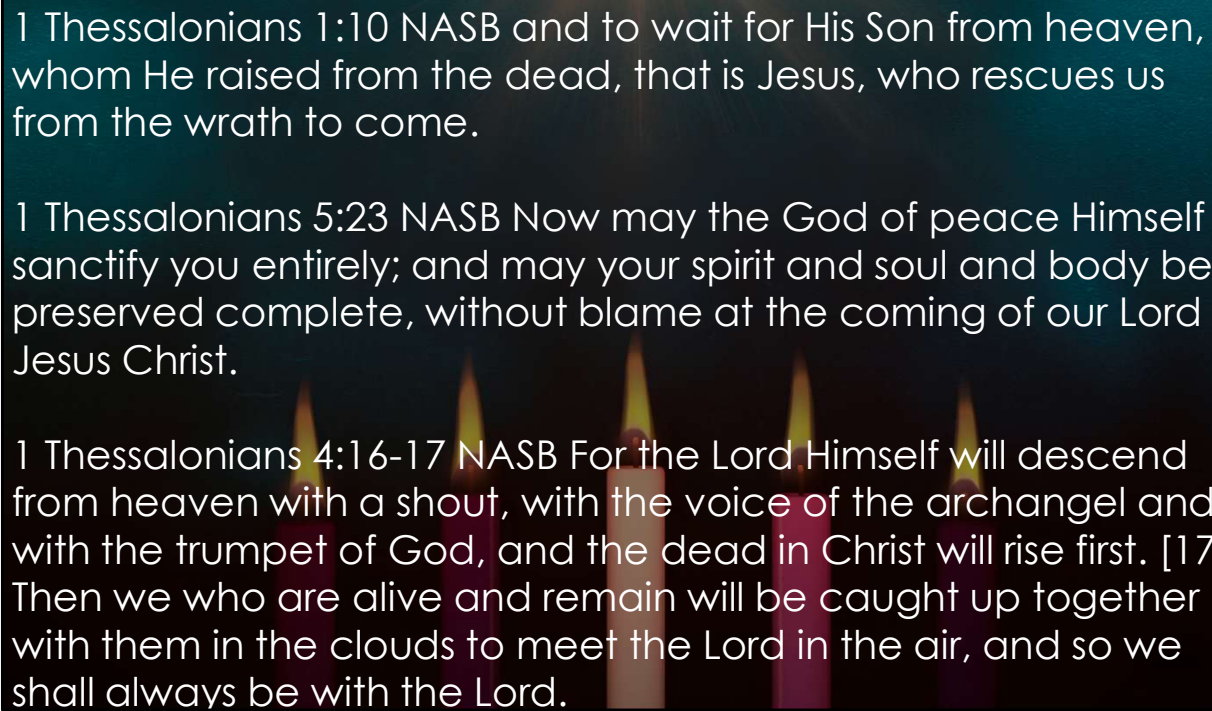
1 Corinthians 1:7 NASB so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

ADULT VERSION OF QUESTION

1. Philippians 3:20-21 describes our citizenship in heaven and Christ's power to transform us as King. How can you live out your allegiance to Christ's Kingdom by prioritizing His values over worldly concerns in your daily decisions?
2. Revelation 1:7 and 1 Corinthians 1:7 emphasize eagerly awaiting Christ's return as King. What practical steps can you take to cultivate hope and faithfulness in your life as you anticipate His triumphant coming?

KID VERSION OF QUESTION

1. Philippians 3:20-21 says Jesus is our King in heaven and can make everything new. How can you show Jesus is your King by doing something kind or helpful for someone today?
2. Revelation 1:7 and 1 Corinthians 1:7 tell us Jesus will come back as King. What's one thing you can do, like praying or sharing, to show you're excited for Jesus to return?



1 Thessalonians 1:10 NASB and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 NASB Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NASB For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

ADULT VERSION OF QUESTION

1. 1 Thessalonians 1:10 speaks of waiting for Jesus, our King, who rescues us from wrath. How can you actively demonstrate trust in Christ's Kingship by living with hope and courage in a challenging situation this week?
2. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 and 5:23 describe Christ's triumphant return and His power to sanctify us. What practical steps can you take to reflect Jesus' reign in your life by pursuing peace and holiness in your relationships?

KID VERSION OF QUESTION

1. 1 Thessalonians 1:10 says Jesus, our King, saves us and is coming back. How can you show Jesus is your King by doing something kind or brave for someone today?
2. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 and 5:23 tell us Jesus will return as King and make us ready for Him. What's one way you can pray or help others to get excited about Jesus coming back?

CHRIST

LEADER: We have been waiting for the revelation of God, the coming of a new King who will bring peace, righteousness, and deliverance. The time has come!

RESPONSE: Glory to God in the highest heaven; and on earth peace among those whom He favors!

LEADER: Hear the Good News of great joy for all people. A Child has been born this day in the city of David, in Bethlehem. He is the Messiah, the Lord. He is called the Son of God, Immanuel, God with us. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great Light, the Light of God's presence in the world, the fulfillment of His promise to be with us always.

RESPONSE: Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place which the Lord has made known to us.

LEADER: This Child will establish a new Kingdom, not on the basis of power and violence, but a Kingdom of justice and righteousness. He shall be known as the Prince of Peace.

With all the candles EXCEPT the center, white "Christ Candle" lit, prepare to light the final "Christ Candle", have one person read the "Leader" lines and others read the "Response" line. After the reading light "The Christ Candle".

If you are using this as a personal devotional, read both parts and then light the final candle called "The Christ Candle". Take a few moments of solitude to appreciate the importance of the coming of this noteworthy person who we call Jesus. Reflect on how you can devote your life serving this servant King.

If you have small children, use the "Response" lines on this page and the next as a short prayer before you light the white "Christ Candle". Enjoy the glow of the candle together in a quiet moment with your kiddos. One more time for this year, blow out the candles as we praise King Jesus.

RESPONSE: Sing to the Lord; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!"

LEADER: This Child is born, not in a palace or in the halls of power, but in a stable. He is attended, not by princes and priests, but by lowly shepherds. He is named Jesus, "God saves," because through him will all nations of the earth find deliverance.

RESPONSE: He is the one who will give Himself for us. So that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for Himself a people of His own. We rejoice because the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Grace calls us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly.

LEADER: Let the heavens be glad; and let the earth rejoice; let the sea give forth praise, and all that fills it do so also; let the field exult, and everything in it as well. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD; for He has come.

RESPONSE: O Lord, may we, like Mary, treasure all these words and ponder them in our hearts.

After you have finished, light the "Christ Candle" and celebrate Jesus Christ our King by listening to the song linked to the QR code on the first page of today's devotional or follow the link below.

<https://spencerchristianchurch.subspla.sh/yh83yvs>